

IN THE INTEREST OF SAFETY



DON'T GET BURNED
TAKE FIRE SAFETY SERIOUSLY

A RECREATIONAL FIRE is an outdoor fire used for cooking, warming or ceremonial purposes. When you light a recreational fire in your yard, remember your neighbors.

The intent of the Recreational Fire Code is to prevent fire hazards for your safety, property and adjacent properties. Recreational fires are permitted in accordance with the following conditions:

- Only use clean, dry wood.
- Firewood stacks cannot exceed three feet in diameter by two feet high.
- Fires must be located at least 25 feet away from combustible structures or materials.
- Extinguishing equipment must be readily available.
- No fires from 12 a.m. to 7 a.m.
- A recreational fire must be immediately extinguished if an official determines it is creating a fire safety hazard.

For more information, call Fire Marshal Gene Dugal at 952-563-8967.

A FAMILY TRADITION
THREE GENERATIONS FIGHT FIRE

YOU COULD SAY that fighting fires is in Kathy Meyer's blood. Not just because she's been doing it for 15 years, but because Meyer is a third generation Bloomington volunteer firefighter, following in the footsteps of her grandfather, father, uncle and currently serving alongside her husband, Deputy Chief of Engineering Curt Meyer. Meyer's grandfather Clarence Hecht began the tradition when he served from 1949 - 1969.

According to Meyer, the one aspect of firefighting she struggles with the most is time management. As a full-time employee of a custom marketing firm in Edina and a mother, Meyer's time is precious.

On Christmas Eve in 2004 she was called to a dangerous house fire. "The landing on a staircase gave way as I passed over it," Meyer said. "Luckily, I was holding on to the hose line, which is a trained practice, so I didn't fall into the basement."

Meyer said that being a third generation firefighter has special meaning, but the most rewarding part of her job is when she's coming to someone's aid.

"When I can perform my necessary duties and at the same time save someone's pet or family photos or other cherished belonging, that's what feels really good," Meyer said.

Meyer is one of Bloomington's 135 all-volunteer firefighters who have been protecting our community since 1947.



Image courtesy of Lisa Voigt.

Three generations of Hechts have served our city, including Clarence Hecht, his son Ken Hecht and granddaughter Kathy Meyer.



PROTECT OTHERS AND SAVE LIVES IF DISASTER STRIKES
JOIN THE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON IS forming a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to increase its emergency response capabilities.

First responders may not meet the demand for emergency services fast enough following a large-scale, major disaster. CERT members are community volunteers who use their skills to sustain lives in a disaster until help arrives.

In addition to learning disaster preparedness, fire suppression and medical operations, CERT members learn about public health disasters, including preparation and response to infectious disease outbreaks and biological terrorist attacks.

The CERT program is a joint effort between Police, Fire, emergency medical services and Public Health. **Classes begin**

in the fall. There is no cost to attend, but space is limited.

For more information, call Lisa Brodsky at 952-563-4962, or e-mail lbrodsky@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

To receive regular Public Health updates via e-mail, visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us and click **E-Subscribe.**

TARGET DEFENSE WITH PRACTICE AND CLASSES
VISIT SOUTH METRO PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING FACILITY



THE SOUTH METRO Public Safety Training Facility, 7525 Braemar Boulevard, Edina, opens its 12-bay firing range to the public for target shooting on **Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.** Targets and eye and ear protection are required and may be rented on-site.

In the fall, the facility also offers classes, including Introduction to Handguns and Firearms Safety and Kung Fu for Self Defense.

This facility provides a place for public safety personnel to practice and serves as a training ground for all. South Metro is a joint project of the cities of Bloomington, Eden Prairie and Edina and the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport Police Department. The facility provides police and fire training opportunities in a 28,000-square-foot, two-building campus.

For more information or to register for classes, visit www.southmetrotraining.com or call the facility at 952-653-0671.



WATCH FOR YELLOW
STOP FOR SCHOOL BUSES

WITH CHILDREN HEADED back to school soon, drivers are reminded to watch and stop for school bus stop-signal arm. The next time you're on the road, follow these regulations that were established to ensure the safety of children boarding and exiting school buses.

- When a school bus extends the stop-signal arm and the red lights are flashing, drivers of approaching vehicles must stop at least 20 feet away from the bus and remain stopped until the stop-signal arm retracts and the lights turn off.
- Traffic approaching from the opposite direction must stop, except when on a roadway with a dividing median or on a parallel road that is separated by a safety isle.
- If a driver fails to stop for a bus stop-signal arm, they are guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$300.
- If a child is in the roadway when the driver passes the bus, they are guilty of a gross misdemeanor.



EARLY INTERVENTION
FOR KIDS
HELP CHILDREN OVERCOME
DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS

CONCERNED ABOUT your child's development? Bloomington Public Health participates in South Hennepin's Interagency Early Learning and Development (SHIELD) program, which ensures that children from birth to three years old are screened for and provided with early childhood intervention services for developmental delays. Parents may request a screening at no cost and interpreters are available for non-English speaking families.

Bloomington Public Health Nurse Barbara Reilly said that meeting with parents to answer questions and offer support is an essential part of the program.

"The brains of very young children are extremely flexible," Reilly said. "With early intervention many children are able to overcome developmental delays before reaching school age."

SHIELD completed its 20th year of service in 2008. For more information, call Public Health at 952-563-8900.